

REMARKS

Applicant's counsel thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration given the application. Claim 17 has been amended to more clearly define the invention. Basis for this amendment can be found on page 9, lines 9 to 16 of the application as filed and in claim 23. Claim 23 has been cancelled; no new matter has been added.

The claims as now amended clearly define over the Section 102 and 103 rejections for the reasons which follow. The use of the thermoplastic polymer compounds of type AB or ABA were not mentioned in Yamaguchi *et al*. Further, Yamaguchi *et al* states that an "*adhesive layer*" of polyethylene is laminated to a "*stretched polyolefin sheet*" (see column 21, lines 13-20). Therefore only the latter component is disclosed in the document and not the composition.

In the method of Ferrar *et al* similar thermoplastic polymers are used (see column 3, lines 24-58). However, the present invention is novel over Ferrar *et al* as Ferrar *et al* is not directed to strengthening ("*reinforcing*") an existing object, but to creating an object out of rigid material. The amended claim 17 now contains the explicit requirement that the article in a three-dimensional manner is formed before the other component is applied. Therefore the claims now define over Ferrar *et al*.

Hauber only mentions that a "*thermoplastic polymer*" is used for reinforcement. It does not disclose that the polymer consists of the AB or ABA type as now required in claim 17.

The present invention is clearly inventive and non-obvious over all the cited documents as none suggest that such thermoplastic polymers of type AB or ABA could successfully be utilized in a method for strengthening preformed objects and that it would provide such good results.

Accordingly, for all the reasons set forth above, it is clear that the claims as now presented define over all the art of record and are accordingly now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

If any further fees are required by this communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. VOB-38027.

Respectfully submitted,
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